Distributorships run by Government in Northern India

1619. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) how many dealerships/distributorships are being run by Government/ Government agencies in Northern India;

(b) how many complaints have been received by the Oil Corporations/ Government against the working during the last three years;

(c) how many inspections have been conducted by the officers to ensure their working during last three years, dealerships/distributorship-wise;

(d) how many warning letters have been issued for the irregularities; and

(e) what is the justification to offer thousands of dealerships/ distributorships to them on Tehsil level locations whether the dealerships/ distributorships have been allotted to Kargil war widows?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) As per information available, around 49 RO dealerships and 111 LPG distributorships are being run by Government/Government agencies in Northern India.

(b) to (e) Complaints against the dealerships/distributorships including dealerships/distributorships run by Government agencies are received from time to time. The Government has laid down guidelines for dealing with such complaints. Oil Marketing Companies carry out regular/surprise inspections of dealerships/distributorships. Special drives are also launched to check malpractices. In established cases of irregularities/malpractices action against the erring dealers/distributors is taken as per guidelines on this subject.

The Government have formulated a Special Scheme to allot 500 LPG distributorships/RO dealerships to the widows/dependents of the defence personnel killed in action. The allotments are made on the recommendations of the Ministry of Defence.

Amount spent on modernisation of petrol pumps

1620. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Oil Corporations are spending huge amount on the modernisation of petrol pumps located in big towns especially in Metros;

(b) how much amount has been spent/proposed to be spent during the last three years and next three years per pump, company-wise;

(c) whether the Oil Corporation would be able to recover this amount out of service station licence fees;

(d) the justification for this said huge investments; and

(e) the reasons for discrimination between the investments being made on pumps of metros and small towns?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (e) Oil marketing companies have invested in modernisation of retail outlets including those in metros to improve the customer convenience, service capability and keeping in view the competition in the deregulated scenario. Such investment is expected to bring reasonable additional returns on the investment made by the companies. Oil Marketing companies have made different scales of investments for modernisation of these retail outlets, depending upon requirement of each site. No licence fee is being recovered form the dealers for the modernisation of the retail outlets.

No discrimination is made between retail outlets of metros and small towns and investment is made on modernisation based on sales potential, customer profile, customer expectation and security of site.

Policy to fix up dealers' commission

1621. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a policy to fix up dealers' commission of petrol pumps in a manner that dealers/Oil Corporations may get atleast bank rate of interest on their investment;

(b) if so, how much is the average investment on the petrol pump on high way or in metros;

(c) whether the service station license fees charged by oil corporations from "A' site dealers is sufficient to cover their investments with interest; and